

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2013

EMS AND RUTHERFORD REGIONAL UTILIZE NEW AUTOMATIC TRANSPORT VENTILATOR

Rutherfordton, NC - Rutherford County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is pleased to announce the purchase of a new automatic transport ventilator for service to Rutherford County residents. EMS has worked alongside Rutherford Regional Health System to provide inter-facility transports to hospitals outside of Rutherford County. The new automatic ventilator will allow quick and efficient transports for critically ill, intubated patients.

This new service will expand EMS' ability to serve the citizens of Rutherford County both with out-of-county transports and ongoing emergency calls within Rutherford County. EMS currently does numerous inter-facility transports and has staff and ambulances available for this ongoing service. The new ventilator will be in service starting September 1, 2013. EMS paramedics are currently being trained on the new equipment at Rutherford Regional Medical Center by Bob Smith, RRT with MedCenter Air.

Terry Baynard, Operations Manager for EMS stated, "We are very pleased that the County purchased this equipment for our use. The ventilator will allow us to make quick and efficient transports to other facilities, for patients who rely on a ventilator. Our paramedics are able to accomplish more tasks, document more completely, and provide better patient care with the use of the automatic transport ventilator."

Until recently, out-of-county ventilator transports had to be done by bag valve ventilation or through the corresponding facility's ambulance service. Now that EMS and Rutherford Regional has access to this new automatic ventilator, transports can be scheduled and completed quickly for Rutherford County citizens. The automatic ventilator is appropriate for pediatric to adult patients. Besides inter-facility transports, the ventilator if needed can be used in the emergency department and the Intensive Care Unit. Automatic transport ventilators are fast to set up and easy to manage for the most appropriate treatment for every patient requiring ventilation.

CEO, Cindy Buck, of Rutherford Regional Health System stated, "Rutherford Regional is proud to work as partners with Rutherford County EMS. Having access to an automatic transport ventilator increases the options and therapy for our ventilated intensive care patients to partner facilities. Our Emergency Department works closely with the excellently trained professionals of Rutherford County EMS to quickly access and transport critical patients when needed."

Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services has been a county run department since 1973. There are EMS stations in Spindale, Hickory Nut Gorge, Bostic, and the Cliffside Fire Department. EMS runs approximately two hundred calls per week. There are 41 full time medics and approximately 30 part time medics. All ambulances operated by Rutherford County EMS are staffed with one or two EMT-Paramedics. EMT-Paramedic level is the highest level of pre-hospital care available. EMS also provides convalescent transports for non-emergency appointments, inter-facility transports and hospital discharges.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kerry Giles, Transportation Services Director
828.288.4505, kerry.giles@rutherfordcountync.gov